



THOUGH I'M CALLED A WHALE, SCIENTISTS CLASSIFY ME AS A DOLPHIN.



FLUKE



RIGHT WHALE



Speed Swimming This blue whale powers her 100-foot, 150-ton body through the sea by driving her fan-shaped tail (or flukes) up and down. She cruises at speeds of three to five miles per hour, but she can sprint at up to 30 mph. A big blue's flukes are up to 80 feet square—as big as your classroom.



Dangerous Waters The blue whale was almost completely exterminated by whalers in the early 1900s, but is now protected as an endangered species. There are an estimated 7,000 to 13,000 blue whales living today.



Open Wide This orca whale can expand her throat and body to swallow up to 66 tons of water at a time.



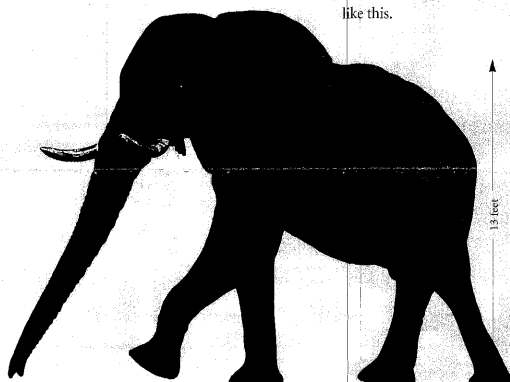
Book It When early whalers sighted a whale they recorded the location in a book like this.



I STARRED IN THE MOVIE FREE WILLY.

WHICH SPECIES OF WHALES ARE ENDANGERED?

Baby On the day a blue whale she's already bigger than an elephant. He's already bigger than an elephant. He drinks almost 200 pounds of food (380,000 calories) and grows every day! He swims close to his mother for at least a year.



An African elephant—the largest land mammal, at up to 13 feet tall—would fit on a whale's tongue. In fact, one whale weighs as much as 20 elephants.



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHALES?

On the three Big Picture boards, you'll find questions and vocabulary words marked with these symbols. Ask your teacher for more information about them.

First, second, and third graders at *Thackston School* in Knoxville, Tennessee.

ZOOPLANKTON



as long as a big blue whale.



Beluga whale

Baby belugas are bluish-gray, but they grow into pure white whales (the name *beluga* means "white" in Russian). Members of the dolphin family, belugas live primarily in the Arctic, sometimes gathering in groups of a thousand or more.



Gray whale

The biggest whale ever to live in captivity was a 27-foot gray whale named Gigi. She was very gentle—her trainer often swam and played with her when she lived at Sea World. She was released into the wild in 1981.



Sperm whale

The sperm whale is easy to identify because he has such a big head—one-third the length of his body. Male sperm whales, which can be more than 50 feet long, are able to dive more than half a mile deep and stay underwater for as long as two hours without breathing.



Humpback whale

Humpback whales are the Boyz II Men of the ocean. During breeding season, groups of males gather to sing-alongs. Each whale has a unique sound that can be heard for hundreds of miles. The songs—which are how scientists think humpbacks communicate—can last up to 30 minutes.

WIN A PRIZE!



BIG MYSTERY The three posters feature nine clues about a person, place, thing, or event. Solve the mystery and send your answer on a postcard, along with your name, address, grade, and school to Big Mystery, P.O. Box 5508, Maryville, TN 37802-5508 no later than May 31, 1995. If you get the answer right and we pick your name, you'll win a \$100 gift certificate.*

*Content void where prohibited by law.

How do you like Big Picture? To reach us, write to P.O. Box 5508, Maryville, TN 37802-5508. You can also call us at 800-451-1749, or E-mail us at feedback@bigpicture.com.

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BIG PICTURE?

Join the Big Mystery Prize. Ask your teacher who will answer. Learn from you. What will you see in Big Picture? Dinosaurs? Residents? Communities? Use your voice. Call or E-mail. See phone numbers above right. Will also.

You'll be able to get more information about subjects covered in Big Picture. Talk with students at other schools across the country, and download graphics, sounds, and other multimedia stuff. Our on-line site is www.bigpicture.com/abc.

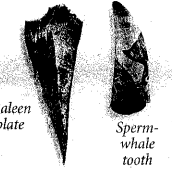
Enjoy this issue.

See you in September.

Source: <http://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/jkm0000>



LOG PICTURE



Baleen plate

Sperm-whale tooth

Strainers This blue whale can't chew her food; she has no teeth. Instead, she draws food through her baleen—hundreds of triangular-plates (some 13 feet long) that hang from the roof of her mouth. The baleen, which is smooth on the outside and fringed on the inside, traps krill when she sucks in water. She strains the water out with her giant tongue and swallows the krill. Baleen is made of keratin—the same stuff as your fingernails.



Rows of baleen plates in a Southern right whale's mouth

Chompers There are two kinds of whale: those with baleen and those with teeth. Toothed whales eat tons of squid and small fish every day. A sperm whale has 24 to 30 teeth, in his lower jaw only. Each tooth is about eight inches long and weighs up to two pounds.



Double spout of a humpback whale

Holes in Their Heads Whales breathe air through blowholes on the tops of their heads. You can spot a whale on the sea's surface by his spout—a column of mist and oil that bursts from his blowhole when he exhales. This blue whale's spout can shoot 50 feet into the air. Whales with teeth have one blowhole; whales with baleen have two.

BLOWHOLES

EACH YEAR BLUE WHALES MIGRATE UP TO 3,000 MILES, THE DISTANCE FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW YORK



WHY DON'T WHALES GET WATER IN THEIR BLOWHOLES WHEN THEY DIVE?

YOU CAN RECOGNIZE WHALES LIKE ME BY OUR BLACK-AND-WHITE BODIES AND, IF WE'RE MALES, OUR TALL TRIANGULAR FINS.



BLUE WHALE AND BABY

A WHALE'S KEENEST SENSE IS THAT OF HEARING—BUT WHERE ARE HIS EARS?

SCRIMSHAW

A BIG is born, a phantom pounds milk (at two inches mother

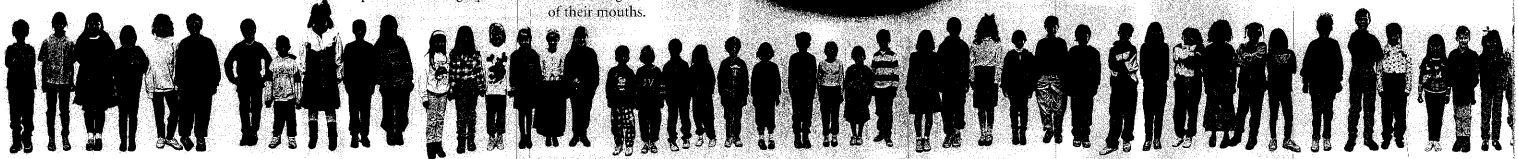
The Biggest Animal on Earth

Welcome to world of w

Are They Gulpers or Skimmers? Baleen whales eat in one of two ways. Gulpers, like these humpbacks, take one big mouthful of food and water at a time. Skimmers, like the blue whale, swim with their mouths open, catching food in their baleen plates and filtering water out the sides of their mouths.

Filled With Krill Shrimplike organisms called krill are the blue whale's favorite food. In summer, a blue whale consumes about four million krill (9,000 pounds) per day—140 pounds in each gulp.

KRILL (actual size)



Blue whales grow up to 100 feet long. Count how many kids it takes to make a line

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WHAT'S BIG

Hey, what's this weird poster on the wall? It's **The Big Picture**—a publication just for kids like you. Think of **The Big Picture** as your window on this world. This issue is all about whales, the biggest creatures on earth. Coming next year?

Look for more fun facts every month. If you want to learn more about an issue, look up the **Big Questions**, look up

WHAT'S BIG

the Big Words, and (and maybe win a prize). If you need help, ask a teacher or a parent. We also want to know what subjects you'd like to see in **The Big Picture** next year? Electricity? Volcanoes? Or anything else that sparks your imagination? Write or e-mail us with your suggestions and we'll put them to work. In September, you'll be able to reach us through a personal computer.

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